AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended)   A method for initiating a communications session involving two or more participants over a telecommunications network, comprising the steps of:

exchanging messages containing non-repudiable data between said participants to establish at least one trust relationship therebetween relating to the session, said non-repudiable data indicating one or more session control functions, a session control function being a control function to be assumed by an individual participants during the session; and then

exchanging messages to establish a session description in respect of the communications session; and then

establishing the communications session;

wherein said messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of at least one trust relationship and said messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of a session description are exchanged using the same signaling protocol.

2. (currently amended)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the exchanging of stepmessages to establish the at least one trust relationship comprises the following steps:

defining one or more control functions to be performed by at least one of the participants during the session;

communicating the defined control functions to the participants;

at each participant:

choosing which, if any, of the control functions the participant wishes to assume;

generating a non-repudiable message indicating the chosen <u>control</u> function(s); and

transmitting the generated message to at least one of the other participants.

3. (original)   A method according to claim 2, wherein the non-repudiable message comprises: data indicative of the chosen function(s); and at least one digital signature of the participant related to said data.

4. (currently amended)   A method according to claim 2, wherein the defining <u>of</u> <u>one or more control functions</u> ~~step~~ comprises ~~the step of~~ communicating charging policy data including data indicative of the control functions to a first one of the participants who has requested it from a service provider; and the communicating<u> of the defined</u> <u>control functions</u> ~~step~~ further comprises communicating the charging policy data from the first participant to the other participants.

5. (original)   A method according to claim 4, wherein at each other participant the generated non-repudiable message is transmitted back to the first participant.

6. (previously presented)   A method according to ~~claims 4 or 5~~ <u>claim 4</u>, wherein the first participant assumes those control functions defined within the charging policy which no other participant has chosen to assume.

7. (currently amended)   A method for establishing at least one trust relationship between two or more participants and relating to a communications session between said participants over a <u>tel</u>ecommunications network, <u>said communications session being established by exchanging messages to establish a session description in respect of the communications session prior to establishing the communications session,</u> <u>said method</u> comprising <u>at least one participant performing</u> the ~~steps of~~<u>following</u>:

requesting session control function data from a server, said data defining one or more control functions to be performed during the communications session;

choosing which, if any, of said control functions to assume;

distributing said control function data to at least one other participant over the <u>tel</u>ecommunications network; <u>and</u>

receiving a non-repudiable message from the at least one other participant containing non-repudiable data indicating which, if any, of the control functions the at least one other participants has assumed<u>;</u>

<u>wherein said non-repudiable message and said messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of a session description are exchanged using the same signaling protocol</u>.

8. (currently amended)   A method according to claim 7, wherein said distributing of said control function data step further comprises distributing to the at least one other participant non-repudiable data indicating which, if any, of the control functions have been assumed.

9. (currently amended)   A method for establishing at least one trust relationship between two or more participants and relating to a communications session between said participants over a telecommunications network, said communications session being established by exchanging messages to establish a session description in respect of the communications session prior to establishing the communications session, said method comprising a server performing the steps of following:

supplying, upon request from a participant, session control function data, said data defining one or more control functions to be performed during the communications session;

receiving non-repudiable data from said participants indicating which, if any, of the control functions each participant has assumed; and

storing said data;

wherein said non-repudiable data and said messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of a session description are exchanged using the same signaling protocol.

10. (currently amended)   A method according to claim 9, and further comprising the steps of:

checking the received non-repudiable data for any conflicts in respect of the

assumed control functions between two or more participants; and

resolving any detected conflicts by assigning any control function in respect of

which there is a detected conflict the disputed control function to only one of said

participants who indicated that they would assume the function.

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 9, and further comprising:

the steps of checking the received non-repudiable data to determine which of the

control functions which have been assumed; and

assigning any control functions which have not been assumed to a first

participant, being the participant to which said network control function data was

supplied.

12. (currently amended) A method for establishing at least one trust relationship

between two or more participants and relating to a communications session between said

participants over a telecommunications network, said communications session being

established by exchanging messages to establish a session description in respect of the

communications session prior to establishing the communications session, said method

comprising one or more participants performing the steps of following:

receiving control function data from a first participant over the

telecommunications network, said control function data defining one or more control

functions to be performed during the communications session;

choosing which, if any, of said control functions to assume;

generating a non-repudiable message containing non-repudiable data indicating which, if any, of the control functions have been assumed; and

sending said message to the first participant;

wherein said non-repudiable message and said message exchanged in respect of the establishment of a session description are exchanged using the same signaling protocol.

13. (original)   A method according to claim 12, and further comprising receiving, together with said control function data, non-repudiable data indicating which, if any, of the control functions have been assumed by the first participant.

14. (currently amended)   A method according to claim 7, wherein said non-repudiable data comprises data indicative of a control function to be assumed, and a digital signature specific to the participant who has assumed the control function to which said non-repudiable data relates relating thereto.

15. (previously presented)   A method according to claim 7, wherein said non-repudiable data further comprises a nonce value specific to the communications session, and a digital signature specific to the participant who has generated said non-repudiable data relating to the nonce value.

16. (previously presented)   A computer program arranged such that when executed by a computer system it causes the computer system to operate according to claim 1.

17. (original)   A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program according to claim 16.

18. (previously presented)   A system for establishing at least one trust relationship between two or more participants and relating to a communications session between said participants over a communications network, said system comprising processing means arranged to operate according to the method of claim 1.

19. (New)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said signaling protocol is a session initiated protocol designed for negotiating session features between participants.

20. (New)   A method according to claim 7, wherein said signaling protocol is a session initiated protocol designed for negotiating session features between participants.

21. (New)   A method according to claim 9, wherein said signaling protocol is a session initiated protocol designed for negotiating session features between participants.

22. (New)   A method according to claim 12, wherein said signaling protocol is a session initiated protocol designed for negotiating session features between participants.

23. (New)   A method according to claim 19, wherein said session initiation protocol is SIP.

24. (New)   A method according to claim 20, wherein said session initiation protocol is SIP.

25. (New)   A method according to claim 21, wherein said session initiation protocol is SIP.

26. (New)   A method according to claim 22, wherein said session initiation protocol is SIP.

27. (New)   A computer readable storage medium which stores a computer program which enables a computer system to perform a method for initiating a communications session involving two or more participants over a telecommunications network, the method comprising:

exchanging messages containing non-repudiable data between said participants to establish at least one trust relationship therebetween relating to the session, said non-repudiable data indicating one or more session control functions, a session control function being a control function to be assumed by an individual participant during the session; and

exchanging messages to establish a session description in respect of the

communications session; then

establishing the communications session;

wherein said messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of at least one

trust relationship and said messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of a

session description are exchanged using the same signaling protocol.

28. (New)　　A computer readable storage medium which stores a computer

program which enables a computer system to perform a method according to claim 27,

wherein said exchanging messages to establish the at least one trust relationship

comprises:

defining one or more control functions to be performed by at least one of the

participants during the session;

communicating the defined control functions to the participants;

at each participant:

choosing which, if any, of the control functions that participant wishes to

assume;

generating a non-repudiable message indicating the chosen control

function(s); and

transmitting the generated message to at least one other of said

participants.

29. (New)   A computer readable storage medium which stores a computer program which enables a computer system to perform a method according to claim 28, wherein the non-repudiable message comprises: data indicative of the chosen control function(s); and at least one digital signature of the participant related to said data.

30. (New)   A computer readable storage medium which stores a computer program which enables a computer system to perform a method according to claim 28, wherein the defining of one or more control functions comprises communicating charging policy data including data indicative of the control functions to a first one of the participants who has requested it from a service provider; and the communicating of the defined control functions further comprises communicating the charging policy data from the first participant to the other participants.

31. (New)   A computer readable storage medium which stores a computer program which enables a computer system to perform a method according to claim 30, wherein at each other participant the generated non-repudiable message is transmitted back to the first participant.

32. (New)   A computer readable storage medium which stores a computer program which enables a computer system to perform a method according to claim 30, wherein the first participant assumes any control functions defined within the charging policy which no other participant has chosen to assume.

33. (New)   A computer readable storage medium which stores a computer

program which enables a computer system to perform a method according to claim 27,

wherein said signaling protocol is a session initiation protocol designed for negotiating

session features between participants.

34. (New)   A computer readable storage medium which stores a computer

program which enables a computer system to perform a method according to claim 33,

wherein said session initiation protocol is SIP.

35. (New)   A system for initiating a communications session involving two or

more participants over a telecommunications network, the system comprising:

means for exchanging messages containing non-repudiable data between said

participants to establish at least one trust relationship therebetween relating to the session,

said non-repudiable data indicating one or more session control functions, a session

control function being a control function to be assumed by an individual participant

during the session; and

means for exchanging messages to establish a session description in respect of the

communications session;

means for establishing the communications session after the messages to establish

the session description are exchanged;

wherein said messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of at least one

trust relationship and said messages exchanged in respect of the establishment of a

session description are exchanged using the same signaling protocol.

36. (New)   A system according to claim 35, wherein the means for exchanging

messages to establish the at least one trust relationship comprises:

means for defining one or more control functions to be performed by at least one

of the participants during the session;

means for communicating the defined control functions to the participants;

at each participant:

means for choosing which, if any, of the control functions that participant

wishes to assume;

means for generating a non-repudiable message indicating the chosen

control function(s); and

means for transmitting the generated message to at least one other of said

participants.

37. (New)   A system according to claim 36, wherein the non-repudiable

message comprises: data indicative of the chosen control function(s); and at least one

digital signature of the participant related to said data.

38. (New)   A system according to claim 36, wherein the means for defining

one or more control functions comprises means for communicating charging policy data

including data indicative of the control functions to a first one of the participants who has

requested it from a service provider; and means for communicating the defined control

functions further comprises communicating the charging policy data from the first

participant to the other participants.

39. (New)   A system according to claim 38, wherein at each other participant

the generated non-repudiable message is transmitted back to the first participant.

40. (New)   A system according to claim 38, wherein the first participant

assumes any control functions defined within the charging policy which no other

participant has chosen to assume.

41. (New)   A system according to claim 35, wherein said signaling protocol is

a session initiation protocol designed for negotiating session features between

participants.

42. (New)   A system according to claim 42, wherein said session initiation

protocol is SIP.